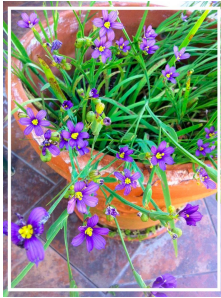




## Spring Bulletin 2017 - First Quarter Update

### - BEST People -



\* Management Team member, **Andrew Rothwell** was named BEST Volunteer of the Year at an awards presentation at The Centre on Philanthropy's Volunteer Recognition Reception in March. Congratulations Andrew!

\* We welcome two new members to the Management Team: **Adam Farrell** and **Alex Conyers**.

\* **Susan Armstrong** has stepped up as our new Management Team chair... and she has come out with guns blazing to lead a very successful brainstorming session on the topic of Revitalisation!

\* From the beginning of April 2017 the development activities will be assumed by **Kim** working with a fundraising committee from the Board. **Mariya Tsiron**, a dedicated volunteer, has been working to document lessons learned from the work of Gordon Johnson which always highlighted the importance of relationships as a key component in any successful fundraising formula.

\* Beach Development - the Bermuda Tourism Authority issued an RFP for an iconic sculpture at Clearwater Beach and invited input and a sculpture judge from BEST. **Lynne Matcham** has agreed to represent BEST. Thank you, Lynne!

### - Active Campaigns -

**Cell Towers** - the Cell-tower Group will approach the Regulatory Authority directly to ask questions on the vision for cell technology in Bermuda and to get them to issue an updated list of towers and antennae in Bermuda (no update since 2009) especially because of the amount of hardware that has been erected for America's Cup which we believe may remain erected once AC is done.

**Morgan's Point** - We are awaiting the Minister's decision on the developer's appeal for the access road to be built through the agricultural land.

**Riddell's Bay** - The new owners and the Department of Planning are in discussions about zoning changes. The goal is for all but 20 acres of the approximately 90 acres to get protective zonings. An ad in RGO on April 5th shows the clubhouse and cottages are up for sale.



**Southlands** - We are awaiting an announcement from Government about the status of Southlands as a Park. Here's a good opinion piece by Jeremy Deacon that's well worth a read: <https://jeremydeacon.wordpress.com/2017/04/02/southlands-a-national-resource-or-a-national-disgrace/>

### - Collaboration with Greenrock -

The Collaboration Initiative with Centre on Philanthropy to explore more formal collaboration with Greenrock resulted in the decision that there will be no formal merger of Greenrock and BEST but that we will continue to collaborate on issues as opportunities arise. The full press release announcing the end of the Collaborative Initiative with Greenrock can be found here: <http://www.royalgazette.com/news/article/20170402/greenrock-best-true-out-merger>

### - The BUZZ Group - Update from Kim -

\* Kim submitted a PATI request to flush out any communications or meetings with Monsanto or their reps in respect of the ban on the importation of products that contain glyphosate (eg. RoundUp).

\* The BUZZ facilitated contact between St. Helena and Bermuda, based on a request for assistance to make contact with Bermuda's biosecurity officer, as follows: "In a nutshell, I am a biosecurity officer currently based in St Helena, a South Atlantic UKOT. I am doing some work for the GB Non-Native Species Secretariat who have funds from the FCO for biosecurity capacity building in all the UKOTs, mainly pre-border and post-border activities. The work I'm doing is the initial gap analysis of biosecurity status. The end result will be a summary of where the main needs are across the UKOTs which will inform the capacity building programme to fill the priority gaps over the next 3 years, in terms of not just what is needed, but also how best to achieve it. The outcomes for all the UKOTs are therefore potentially very high."



\*When the report on the study of glyphosates in Bermuda was presented at the Wesley Methodist in late January, the public were invited to submit additional comments and/or questions to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) by the middle of February. The BUZZ made a substantial submission to the DENR (posted on the BEST website) and, at the same time, proposed that an Integrated Pest Management program be formally adopted in Bermuda as a way to reduce (or eliminate) our use of pesticides.

\*The BUZZ is working on an opportunity to bring a soil specialist to Bermuda (Dr. Elaine Ingham) to share her knowledge about soil testing, sustainable practices for healthy vs unhealthy soil and composting as a way to remediate imbalance in soils. We will have a Skype call with her in late April with a view to bringing her to Bermuda in late summer/early Fall.

\*Kim met with Caitlin Conyers who was a law student when she undertook a project for us to consider the co-formulants of pesticides.

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